

SALEM CITY SCHOOL DIVISION



February 18, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This spring, Salem City Public Schools will join with the Salem Prevention Planning Team to conduct an important study on the health needs, attitudes and behaviors of students in grades six, eight, ten and twelve.

Information will be collected using The Center for Disease Control Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The survey results will provide our school division and community agencies with information to assess current programs and to develop additional programs to address the needs of our youth.

The purpose of this assessment is to gather accurate, reliable information regarding the health and risk related behaviors of 6th, 8th, & 9th-12th graders in Salem. Specifically, the assessment records the frequency and prevalence of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, sexual behaviors (grades 8-12) and a variety of other health and safety related activities among our youth.

Additional Information:

- Students will have approximately 50 minutes to complete the online survey in one of their classes according to a schedule developed by the school.
- The survey results are anonymous. The survey will not collect any personally identifiable information and there will be no way to associate any individual student with specific survey results.
- A final report will combine information by grade level and gender. The survey will not collect or report any individual student data.
- Student participation is voluntary. The survey is not a test taken for a grade and refusing to participate will not affect students' grades. (Non-participating students will sit quietly at their desks during the survey administration.)

We hope that you will allow your child to participate in this project. If you would like to review the survey, you can request a digital copy by contacting Assistant Superintendent Curtis Hicks by email at chicks@salem.k12.va.us. Please specify your child's grade when making this request. If you do not have email, a copy for each grade level will be available at the reception desk located in the division's central office at 510 South College Avenue.

If you do not want your child to participate, complete the bottom of this page and have your child return it to the guidance secretary in his/her school by March 1. If we do not receive a completed opt-out form, he/she will be asked to participate. If you have questions about the survey or its use, please contact Curtis Hicks by email at chicks@salem.k12.va.us or by phone at 389-0130.

I do not want my child to participate in the Center for Disease Control Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Student Name (please print): _____ Grade: _____

School: _____

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____